Decline in foreign exchange reserve

†2139 SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange reserve is declining rapidly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the likely effects of this decline on the economic scenario of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No Sir. India's foreign exchange reserves, which stood at US $ 113 billion as at end-March 2004, increased to US $ 119.5 billion by end-June 2004 on account of substantial foreign exchange inflows. The foreign exchange reserves were estimated at US $ 119.3 billion on August 6, 2004. During the period April 1, 2004 to August 6, 2004, India's foreign exchange reserves increased by US $ 6 3 billion

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Externally aided projects for Tripura

2140 SHRI MATILAL SARKAR Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many externally-aided projects are there in different States as sanctioned during 2001-02 to 2003-04, State-wise,

(b) how many of them relate to the North-Eastern States;

(c) whether it is a fact that not a single EAP has been sanctioned for Tripura, and

(d) the proposals received from Government of Tripura and the action taken on the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) the number of externally aided projects in different States as sactioned during 2001-02 to 2003-04 is furnished in Statement I (*see* below)

(b) Six projects relate to the North-Eastern States

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi